



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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Media Advisory **National Ground Water Awareness Week**

BISMARCK, N.D. – In recognition of National Ground Water Awareness Week March 13 through 19, 2005, the North Dakota Department of Health is providing a package of information for use by news media throughout the state.

In North Dakota, protecting ground water is one of the primary functions of the department's Division of Water Quality. "It may not always be visible, but ground water is the source of half the drinking water supplies in the United States," said Scott Radig, Ground Water Protection Program manager for the Department of Health. "Even though it is out of sight, ground water should not be far out of mind."

Included in the package of information for the media are five articles and a fact sheet about ground water. The articles include:

- **Article #1.** Sixty percent of all North Dakotans rely on ground water for their primary source of drinking water. For rural populations, the figure is 97 percent.
- **Article #2.** Ground water is an important source of surface water.
- **Article #3.** Approximately 90 percent of community water supplies that provide drinking water to homes, restaurants, day-care centers, campgrounds, office buildings, factories, hospitals, schools, etc., come from ground water systems.
- **Article #4.** In the ongoing effort to preserve and protect ground water, strict regulations control the disposal of substances that, unregulated, could affect drinking water in the United States.
- **Article #5.** The volume of ground water is decreasing in many parts of the United States.

The ground water articles may be accessed at www.health.state.nd.us/WQ/GW/AwarenessWeek/. For more information about ground water issues, contact Scott Radig at 701.328.5233.

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